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EPA New England Announces Fourth Annual List of New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM

*145 employers representing nearly 230,000 workers qualify for
EPA's growing list of Best Workplaces for Commuters*

Boston, MA (September 22, 2006)—Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New England Office released the fourth annual list of **New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**. The list recognizes leading, innovative employers committed to improving their communities by reducing traffic congestion and air pollution and improving the health and quality of life for thousands of commuters in the region.

This year, the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts became the first municipality in New England to join the list of **New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**. Other new employers include IBM – Cambridge, CDM also in Cambridge, Cartus and Ricoh USA in Danbury, CT and Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont. In total, 145 employers representing 229,941 employees qualified for the list, which consists of large and small organizations throughout New England, and represents a wide array of industries including technology, healthcare and transportation. In addition, the 2006 list recognizes the Upper Valley New Hampshire/Vermont Best Workplaces for CommutersSM District, providing commuter benefits meeting EPA's National Standard of Excellence to all commuters in Enfield, Canaan, Hanover, and Lebanon, New Hampshire, as well as to commuters in Norwich and Hartford, VT. The complete list of **New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**, is below.

In New England, cars and trucks contribute more than half the nitrogen oxide emissions, a key ingredient in the formation of ozone smog. In the Boston Metropolitan area alone, commuters waste approximately 136 million gallons of fuel each year simply by idling in traffic jams. **New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** recognizes those employers who are doing their part to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Together, these employers have reduced annual emissions in New England by over 110,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), 98 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOC), 210 tons of nitrogen oxide (NO_x), and 1,909 tons of carbon monoxide (CO). This is equivalent to conserving over 12.5 million gallons of gas and taking nearly 21,000 cars off the road in New England each year.

“Today's announcement acknowledges New England's newest leaders who have gone the extra mile in offering their employees outstanding commuting options,” said Robert Varney, Regional Administrator of EPA New England. “These employers are not only helping the air quality in our region, they are also gaining a competitive advantage by offering employees' an important benefit which broadens their commuting options.”

The 2006 list of **New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** welcomes the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts as the region's first municipality to qualify for the list of **New England's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**. The City of Cambridge provides its employees with a number of commuter benefits, including membership in the Charles River Transportation Management Association, ridesharing, pre-tax transit subsidy, shuttle service from transit stations and a guaranteed ride home in case of an emergency. The City also promotes alternative commutes such as walking and cycling to work and provides secure bicycle parking, showers and lockers for employees.

"The City of Cambridge is very pleased to be the first municipality in New England to receive recognition from EPA as one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters," said Robert W. Healey, Cambridge City Manager. "As a municipality, providing our workforce with commuter benefits is a smart investment: while our employees enjoy the flexibility of many commute options, the positive impact of fewer vehicle trips also extends to our residents, businesses and the environment."

In addition to providing its employees with alternative commuting incentives, the City of Cambridge encourages its employers to promote innovative commuting options, and to date, 26 Cambridge employers have joined the city on the New England List of Best Workplaces for Commuters.

To qualify as one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters, employers must provide:

- At least one primary commuter benefit, such as a monthly transit/vanpool pass subsidy, cash in lieu of free parking, or a significant telework program;
- At least three supporting commuter benefits, such as carpool incentives, lockers/showers for bikers or walkers, incentives for living near work, or onsite amenities such as day care or dry cleaning;
- A central point of contact for commuter information who actively promote commuter benefits; and,
- Access to an Emergency/Guaranteed Ride Home program.

About the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM

Best Workplace for Commuters is an innovative partnership that distinguishes and provides national recognition to employers who offer their employees superior commuter benefits. These benefits help reduce air pollution, alleviate traffic congestion, and save fuel. They can also help employers save on taxes, reduce the need for parking facilities, and meet government trip reduction goals. For more details and to see if an organization qualifies, visit <www.bwc.gov>.